

WHERE CONGRESSMAN WHITACRE STANDS

I submit herewith a review of my record as a member of Congress. I believe the voters are entitled to my opinions on public questions, and by printing letters I have written to constituents, together with newspaper reports of speeches, they will be enabled to learn just where I stand.

In this new era of politics there can be NO EVASION, NO CARRYING OF WATER ON BOTH SHOULDERS, NO SECRET UNDERSTANDING WITH CLASSES OF VOTERS. PEOPLE

ARE DEMANDING THAT THEIR SERVANTS DEAL IN THE OPEN AND ABOVE BOARD.

Oftentimes candidates hoodwink the voters by whispered promises to one section of the electorate, and a contradictory promise to another set. BUT THE PEOPLE ARE ALIVE TO THIS SORT OF DECEPTION. THEY WANT PLAIN, STRAIGHT-FORWARD STATEMENTS, AND NO SHUFFLING. A CANDIDATE SHOULD BE EITHER FOR OR AGAINST A PROPOSAL. HE CAN'T STRADDLE IN CONGRESS.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY NOT FOR TARIFF DESTRUCTION

Tariff Board Report Justified Assertion of Tariff Reformers That Schedule "K" Needs Overhauling—
Letters of Congressman Whitacre Define His Views on Tariff Taxes.

In answer to a request of Mr. Charles A. Vignos, of The Novelty Cutlery company, of Canton, for his views on the tariff, Congressman Whitacre wrote the following letter to Mr. Vignos in March, 1912:

"I have your letter of recent date with reference to the proposed reduction of the tariff taxes on cutlery. What I have to say in answer to your letter with respect to the taxes on your particular product will apply equally to all items of the tariff.

"You in common with all others directly interested in any particular line of manufacture, declare that any reduction in the rate on your product will ruin your business. Personally I do not know whether a reduction in tariff rates will destroy your business or not. I do not mean to doubt or to call in question your word. This claim of ruin is so universally indulged in by all those interested in maintaining high tariff taxes that all statements coming from those directly interested are somewhat under suspicion, and are or ought to be taken under careful consideration. It is impossible for me either to accept or reject your statements and those of all others whose business is affected by the tariff. Naturally you are interested in your particular line and you do not desire any reduction in rate which will make foreign importations less expensive.

"Now there are some two or three thousand specific items in the tariff bills and the rate on each item is of vital interest to those who produce that article in the various parts of the country. It is out of the question for me to inform myself as to each of these items by direct personal investigation and research. I do not care, however, to accept in their entirety the statements of those who are financially interested in the maintenance of the present high rates, but I will not reject their statements as wholly untrue.

"My opinion is that the entire subject of tariff rates should be referred to a competent board of tariff experts, who should be given ample power and time to investigate all conditions of production of each item with power to report and to recommend to Congress such rates as will produce the maximum of revenue and at the same time not work harm or substantial injury to any American industry.

"Certain industries have been built up in this country through the favor of our tariff laws. Whether or not these extremely high tariff taxes are still necessary to maintain any given industry I do not know. Certain it is that many of these tariff-protected industries are no longer infants; but on the very contrary they are exceedingly prosperous and wealthy and most of them, if not all, protect themselves by corporation control or price agreements, while the tariff tax protects all of them from the foreign competitor.

"Many extravagant statements are made and indulged in by all who talk or write on this subject. For myself I prefer to take the opinion of a properly constituted and experienced body of men who have the ability to find, and the honesty to declare the truth. I will not purposely injure any industry by any reduction in rate which will ruin that industry, and I will not favor any such high rates as tend wholly to exclude foreign-made goods, leaving the home consumer wholly at the mercy of the home combination or so-called trust.

"The report of the present Tariff Board on the woolen schedule justifies all that has been said with respect to the unjust and enormously high prohibitive taxes on woolen goods and shows the necessity of a material reduction in these rates. A similar investigation and report should be made as to all other items. We will then know as near as it is possible to be known what is a just and what an unjust rate.

"In this connection I take pleasure in calling your attention to my bill providing for the establishment of a permanent tariff commission. While I do not expect to see my bill made a law, yet I am sure that the idea will prevail in the end. Representative A. Mitchell Palmer, of Pennsylvania, a member of the Ways and Means Committee, has introduced a bill for the creation of an expert body of tariff investigators, and I believe that this bill will receive the support of Mr. Underwood and his associates.

"I trust that I have made myself understood, and if you have any comments to offer in the light of the contents of my letter I shall be glad to hear them.

"J. J. WHITACRE."

WHITACRE THE FIRST ADVOCATE OF TARIFF BOARD IN 18TH DISTRICT

In an exchange of letters with his predecessor, Mr. James Kennedy, of Youngstown, Congressman Whitacre in 1910 gave the following expression of his views on the tariff question in response to questions:

"Hon. James Kennedy, Youngstown, O.

"Sir:—I notice that you want something 'specific'—you shall have it.

"My first presidential vote was for Grover Cleveland in 1884 and was based on the following tariff plank of the Democratic National convention for that year. 'Knowing full well however, that legislation affecting the occupations of the people should be cautious and conservative in method, not in advance of public opinion, but responsive to its demands, the Democratic party is pledged to revise the tariff in a spirit of fairness to all interests.

"But in making a reduction in taxes it is not proposed to injure any of the domestic industries but rather to promote their healthy growth. From the foundation of this government, taxes collected at the custom house have been the chief source of federal revenue. Such they must continue. Moreover, many industries have come to rely upon legislation for a successful continuance, so that any change of law must be at every step regardless of the labor and capital thus involved. The process of reform must be subject in its execution to the plain dictates of justice. All taxation shall be limited to the requirements of an economical government. The necessary reduction in taxation can and must be effected without depriving American labor of the ability to compete successfully with foreign labor, and without imposing lower rates of duty than will be ample to cover any increased cost of production which may exist in consequence of the higher rate of wages prevailing in this country. Sufficient revenue to pay all expenses of the federal government economically administered, including pensions, interest and principal of the public debt, can be got under our present system of taxation, from custom house taxes on fewer imported articles, bearing heaviest on articles of luxury, and bearing lightest on the articles of necessity. We therefore denounce the abuses of the existing tariff, and, subject to the preceding limitations, we demand that federal taxation shall be exclusively for public purposes, and shall not exceed the needs of the government economically administered.

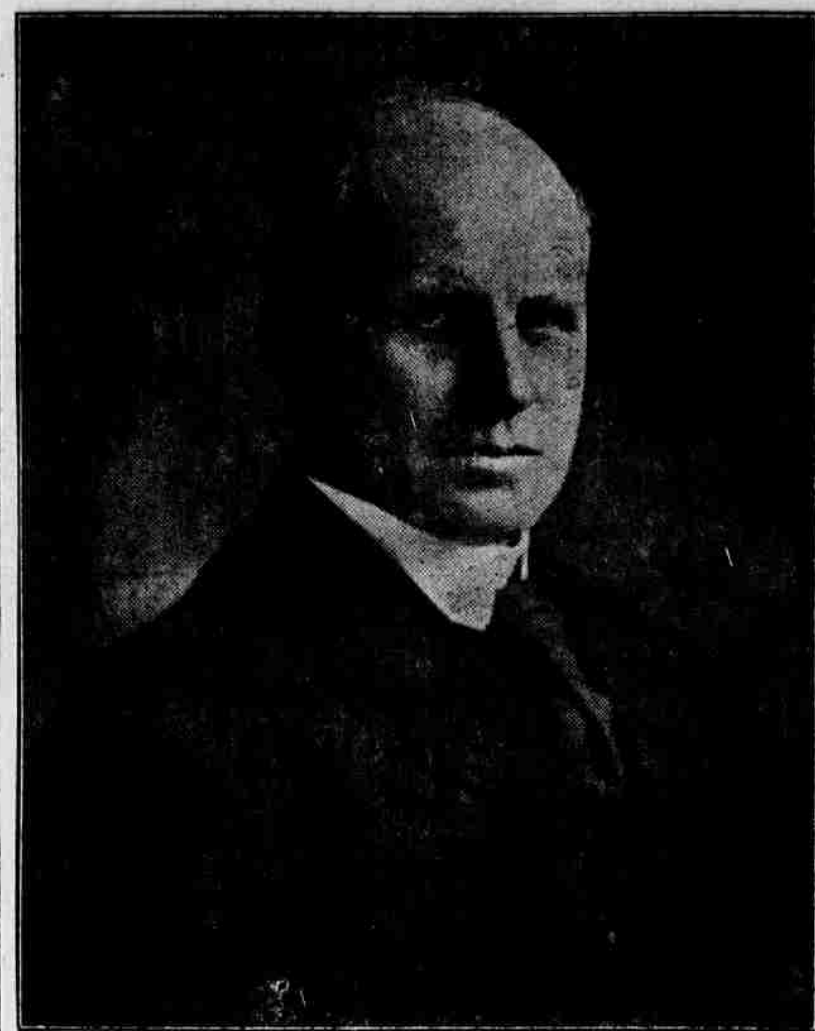
"My first public appearance as a candidate for office was in 1908, and I then expressed myself as repeated in my answer to your question of the 21st of September, as follows:

"QUESTION—Third: Whether you are for or against the policy of protection to American industries?

"ANSWER—August 14, 1908. I stated that a permanent board (commission) should be established in the treasury department, 'empowered to consider and investigate conditions both at home and abroad, and to make (recommend) such changes in tariff schedules from time to time as will best subserve the purposes of the treasury, and domestic industrial conditions. A scientific adjustment of rates can be made which will be productive of revenue and at the same time promote the high standard of American living so necessary to be secured and maintained.' I stand on that declaration now—you can put what name to it you prefer. I am not interested in names—I am only concerned with a correct statement of sound economic doctrine, and the scientific application of that doctrine to present day conditions.

"Mr. William J. Bryan, speaking at Des Moines, Iowa, August 21, 1908, said with respect to the process of tariff reduction as proposed by the Democratic party:

"The Democratic plan does not contemplate an immediate change from one system to the other; it expressly declares that the change shall be gradual, and a gradual change is only possible where the country is satisfied with the results of each step taken."



Congressman J. J. Whitacre, Candidate on the Democratic Ticket for Re-election.

FARMERS MUST BE TREATED JUSTLY IN TARIFF LAWS

Opposed to Free Trade for Farmers and High Protection for Manufactured Articles—Explains Vote on Reciprocity Measure in Letter to Lisbon Paper.

Congressman Whitacre's vote against the Canadian Reciprocity Treaty was explained by him in a letter under date of May 1, 1911, to The Ohio Patriot, of Lisbon, Ohio, which follows:

"I am in receipt of your editorial respecting my vote on the Canadian Reciprocity treaty. You certainly are entitled to an explanation from me for my reasons for this vote and I am glad of the opportunity to respond. 'The people of the district were not promised free trade at all hands; but they were promised that, if the present rates, after intelligent and scientific examination were found too high, then in a spirit of fairness alike to the manufacturer and to the people, the rates would be reduced, not destroyed. I distinctly stated at all times and on all occasions that I was not a DESTRUCTIONIST. I believe that many, if not all, of the present Payne-Aldrich tariff rates are too high and were purposely made high in order to foster and promote the business interests of those engaged in the manufacture of the protected articles. Where the rates DO exclude foreign competition and DO operate to promote monopolistic combines, and are burdensome and injurious to the people they must be reduced, and if need be destroyed.

"But you MUST SHOW ME FIRST; I will not excitedly and unduly rush into a destruction of all rates because SOME are too high. This Canadian agreement was conceived in a moment of panic by a spineless President who had been repudiated by an outraged people on account of the injustices and enormities of the Payne-Aldrich law. So he goes to the extreme of giving to the farmers a dose of their own medicine, as he thought, and in effect says to them:

"You voted for free trade, now take it for yourself, but not for the manufacturers."

"No sir, Mr. President, nor Mr. Editor of the Patriot, not with my vote. I refuse to get excited. I will vote for a REVISION of the tariff, because I believe that justice and fair dealing demand it; but it must be a REVISION, not a DESTRUCTION, and what is more it must be a revision that is just to all.

"I trust I have made my position clear. If not, if you will kindly point out where I am not clear I will be obliged to you, and will try again.

"Yours very truly,

"J. J. WHITACRE."

WHITACRE'S TARIFF BOARD BILL PRAISED BY NEWLANDS

Congressman Whitacre's bill for the creation of a Permanent Tariff Commission evoked the following letter from Senator Newlands, of Nevada, one of the leading Progressive Democrats of that body:

United States Senate, Washington, D. C., August 21, 1911.
Hon. J. J. Whitacre: I have read your bill for the creation of a permanent Tariff Commission, which I have looked over with much interest. It will be a valuable contribution to the thought upon the question of the creation of a Tariff Board and the powers of such a board.

I have always thought that if Congress could simply organize a Board with reference to the tariff rates similar to the Interstate Commerce Commission with reference to railroad rates, and would give it the power after hearing, to condemn a rate and to substitute a reasonable rate, to be ascertained by a rule fixed by Congress, it would be very desirable. One difficulty is in shaping the rule or standard, and another is the natural reluctance of Congress to turn over to any board the exercise of any power hitherto exercised by it. The present methods of tariff-making are enough to make the gods weep. However, I am sure that in time we shall find some solution for the difficulty.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANCIS G. NEWLANDS,

Senator From Nevada.

LABOR BILLS SUPPORTED BY WHITACRE

His Stand On Injunction Question—Worked For Department of Labor in Cabinet.

When he was a candidate for Congress two years ago Congressman Whitacre was summoned before the Central Labor bodies of the District and interrogated on his attitude on various proposals vitally important to labor. The meetings were held with the ostensible purpose of "putting Mr. Whitacre on record."

During the term in Congress three bills came before him, namely, the Clayton bill for jury trial in contempt cases, the Clayton bill for the regulation of the insurance of injunctions, and the Sulzer bill for the creation of a Bureau of Labor. True to his pre-election declarations, Mr. Whitacre supported these measures by his vote. For this action he was commended by the labor bodies of the District.

In addition, Mr. Whitacre voted for the law which, in effect, prohibits the manufacture of matches from white phosphorus, because of the deleterious effects upon workmen, producing what is known as "phossy jaw," a disease which causes a decay of the flesh; also supported the Wilson bill, No. 23873, which forces ship owners adequately to man their vessels, so that disasters such as the sinking of the Titanic will not recur.

HOW WHITACRE VOTED

Congressman Whitacre during his term in Congress voted for the following measures:

Sherwood pension bill, House Bill 20842 to prohibit the manufacture of white phosphorus matches because of injurious effect on workmen, Iron and Steel Tariff Revision Bill No. 18042, House Bill 22195 for Revision of Wool Schedule, Farmers' Free List Bill, Clayton bill for regulation of the issuance of injunctions, contempt cases, Sulzer bill to compel the adequate manning of passenger vessels, Sulzer bill for creation of Department of Labor, Shackleford Good Roads bill, Parcels Post bill, Lever Agricultural campaign expenditures, direct election of U. S. Senators.

Mr. Whitacre voted to continue the life of the present Tariff Board, and for several bills appropriating money for its maintenance.

PARCELS POST TO STIMULATE TRADE

Will Provide Quicker Transportation From Farm to City Consumers.

[From The News-Democrat.]

Parcels post as a means of quick communication between the country and the town and city was endorsed as one of the reforms which will tend to keep the agricultural population from further dwindling by Congressmen J. J. Whitacre in an address before a meeting of the Retail Dealers' association of Massillon. Better highways and parcels post, he asserted, will check the decrease in the number of food producers and thus indirectly keep food prices from climbing.

"Our energies," he said, "must be directed to promoting an increase of rural population in proportion with the increase in city population. Census returns of 1910 show that every county in the state of Ohio lost in the number of rural residents. Farmer's boys will stay on the farm only when they have the conveniences and comforts found in the city. The farmer should have a telephone in his home, substantial highways leading from his farm to the city markets, and the parcels post to save him long trips for the marketing of his farm products or the purchase of supplies for his household.

"Parcels post is not an experiment. It is in operation in England, France, and Germany and visitors to these countries testify to its value and vital aid to the people in general. With parcels post the farmer is sure to buy more. In this way the merchant is to be benefited. Express companies are working tooth and nail against the proposal, but their false statements will not keep this reform from the statute books."

Few Letters From Voters

Salem, O., Sept. 24, 1912.

Dear Mr. Whitacre:—While I have always been a staunch Republican of the original type I am of the Progressive type this year, supporting Progressive men, whether they are Republicans or Democrats. I have long admired your progressive ideas, especially your good roads policy and other matters concerning the welfare of the people. I expect to lend my influence for the Progressive Democrat as well as the Progressive Republican this fall and hope to see you continued in office for the best interest of our District.

H. E. E.

Minerva, Sept. 23.

Dear Mr. Whitacre:—I am with you in your support of the Lever Agricultural Extension bill, on parcels post, and your good roads program. You are aiding the farmer in a practical way and you will be returned to continue your good work.

A. F.

Elkton, O., Sept. 20.

Dear Mr. Whitacre:—Being one of the many Republicans who helped to elect you to Congress I have been well pleased with your record, and I do not mean to trade off a certainty for an uncertain quantity. There are other Republicans here who look at it in the same way.

R. M.

Canton, O., Aug. 7.

Dear Mr. Whitacre:—I take this means of thanking you, both on behalf of my trades union and myself, for the way in which you have kept your promises with the labor bodies of the District. Your work is highly appreciated and commended.

R. N. H.

From a large Salem, Ohio, manufacturing concern:—

Dear Mr. Whitacre:—Your letter explaining the effect of the abrogation of the Russian treaty, and the prospects of a new treaty with that country, has been received. We are very glad indeed to note your attitude on legislative subjects, such as parcels post, and only regret that our people generally can not be represented by more men of your caliber.

H. S.

A. G. Wileman post, G. A. R., Marlboro, Ohio—Resolved:—That we extend a vote of thanks to the Hon. J. J. Whitacre member of Congress of the Eighteenth Ohio district, for voluntarily sending application blanks to the comrades for use in securing increased pension under the Pension Act of May 11, 1912, and for the good feeling he has expressed towards the soldiers of the Civil War.

Youngstown, O., Dec. 19, 1912.

Dear Mr. Whitacre:—I have been a member of the U. S. Army and for five years I operated a farm. I agree with you that more money should be devoted to the promotion of farming and less to teaching the present generation the manual of arms. You may count me as one of your friends and supporters in your stand for less military expenditures.

R. T. W.

Whitacre's Appeal To Constituents

(Extract from 1908 speech.)

Let no man vote for me because only I am labeled Democrat. I trust no man will vote against me because I am labeled not Republican. I am an American "freedom" and believe in my countrymen, my country and my country's good. I am not a greater and grander heights. If these views of government here and now expressed do not appeal to your sense of what ought to be it is your duty to oppose me; if, however, they appeal to your sense of fairness and right then it is your privilege to support me, and I only ask the indulgence of your careful further consideration and final action at the polls. We are now on the verge of a new era when our flag must stand more than ever hitherto. We must meet the fevered restlessness of today with the greatest intelligence. The government of the future must expand and grow with ever-increasing needs of the hour. Government does not stand still as do plants or animals. It adjusts itself to varying conditions or decays. Growth or decay is the universal law of nature, and government no less than man is subject to its power. Our government does not stand still as do plants or animals. It adjusts itself to varying conditions or decays. Growth or decay is the universal law of nature, and government no less than man is subject to its power. Our government does not stand still as do plants or animals. It adjusts itself to varying conditions or decays. Growth or decay is the universal law of nature, and government no less than man is subject to its power.

"The citizens of the town will profit by making a truck farmer ten miles from town as near to town as is a three-mile farmer. The zone of vegetable and dairy produce available to the towns will be so largely extended that the cost of these items to the towns will be reduced. A farmer on a brick road ten or twelve miles from town will be as near, so far as transportation and time is concerned, as the farmer three or five miles distant on a mud road. Everybody, whether in town or the country adjacent, would be financially benefited directly every day and every hour hereafter."

BETTER ROADS A BENEFIT TO ALL CLASSES

Less Outlay For Fancy Postoffices In Small Towns and Appropriations For Highways Is Favored

No policy that Congressman Whitacre has espoused has been the subject of so many commendatory letters as his advocacy in and out of season of FEDERAL AID FOR GOOD ROADS. Ever since his entrance into politics, Mr. Whitacre has been giving impetus to the educational propaganda for good roads, and during the last session of Congress he had the satisfaction of seeing the House of Representatives by an overwhelming non-partisan vote pass the Shackleford good roads bill, which had been endorsed by good roads advocates at a meeting called at Mr. Whitacre's suggestion. As to the benefits of improved highways Mr. Whitacre feels that there is no further need of argument. A Strip of Highway in Columbiana, Stark and Mahoning counties vindicate themselves. The incalculable good that will flow from quick communication between country and town is now realized as never before. Peculiarly enough American cities and towns, have been going on for years in European countries, where good highways are deemed as essential as good railroad systems.

As a means of getting funds for improved highways Congressman Whitacre believes that much money could be diverted for this purpose from the enormous outgo for public buildings throughout the country. "Pork Barrel" appropriation bills, carrying millions of dollars for post-office buildings in every state of the union, have been roundly condemned by him.

In a letter on the comparative benefits of post office buildings and improved roads, Congressman Whitacre said:

"Fundamentally I am opposed to extravagant and useless expenditure, largely for show and ornamentation, for postoffice buildings in small towns and cities. If I am advised correctly the cost of maintenance and repair of new buildings is largely in excess of the rent paid for the room theretofore occupied, the item of interest on the investment not considered.

"The Democratic members of the House of Representatives twice properly, and with my vote, rejected the proposal of a General Public Buildings bill carrying a \$25,000,000 appropriation for new postoffice buildings to be located in every state of the union. The bill proposed to plant buildings right and left, in towns entirely too small to warrant public buildings.

"Senator Lea of Tennessee, a Democrat, and Senator Kenyon, of Iowa, a Republican, did the country a real service recently by unbaring the scandal of postoffice building appropriations. They succeeded during the recent session in forcing the Senate to reconsider bills granting \$75,000 for a postoffice in San Diego, \$100,000 for a postoffice of 281 souls; \$47,500 for a building in New Castle, Wyoming, with a population of 975; and \$45,000 for a building in Thermopolis, Wyoming, a town of 1524 persons. With such squandering of the public money I do not wonder that the people are much mistaken, do the workmen, farmers and business men who pay the taxes.

"The Democratic House of Representatives is not being run on the 'lines' followed by previous Houses. It has determined that this raid on the Treasury heretofore carried in public buildings bills, placing post-offices in towns no matter how large, but where a congressman needs votes shall be stopped, at any rate as far as this session is concerned. I am not able to say whether this spasmodic economy will continue through the next session of Congress. The hogs are not all dead yet, and I regret very much to say that there are a number of them in the Democratic party."

Referring to the benefits that would flow to the resident of the city and town from good roads, Mr. Whitacre says: "The citizens of the town will profit by making a truck farmer ten miles from town as near to town as is a three-mile farmer. The zone of vegetable and dairy produce available to the towns will be so largely extended that the cost of these items to the towns will be reduced. A farmer on a brick road ten or twelve miles from town will be as near, so far as transportation and time is concerned, as the farmer three or five miles distant on a mud road. Everybody, whether in town or the country adjacent, would be financially benefited directly every day and every hour hereafter."